

PREFACE

This report is designed to satisfy the statutory requirements of § 305(b) of the federal Water Pollution Control Act [33 U.S.C. 1288], commonly known as the Clean Water Act (CWA). It also serves as a source of basic information on water quality and water pollution control

programs in New Mexico. Accordingly, the intended audience includes the general public, interest groups, consultants, state legislators, governmental agencies at State, local, and federal levels, as well as universities and other educational entities.

State and federal agencies, statutes, regulations, and programs are distinctly identified within the various aspects of water pollution control management as required by the context.

Legal Requirements

CWA § 305(b) (1) requires that each State submit a biennial report to the United States Congress through the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The report is to include the following:

- an assessment of water quality;
- an analysis of the extent to which surface waters provide for protection and propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife and recreation in and on the water;
- an overview of progress in water pollution control and recommendations for further action;

- an estimate of the environmental, social, and economic impacts of restoring and maintaining the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of waters within the State; and

- a description of the nature of nonpoint source pollution and of programs for nonpoint source pollution control.

This report contains three parts. Part I contains the *Executive Summary* and *Recommendations*. The executive summary focuses on water quality and water pollution control management results, highlighting major points made in the report. The recommendations from the Water Quality Control Commission

are addressed to both the United States Congress and the USEPA.

Part II, *Surface and Ground Water Quality*, provides a basin-by-basin narrative on current pollution problem areas and efforts to remediate them. This part of the report also outlines the State's assessments of both its ground and surface water resources.

The final part of this report, *Water Quality Management*, details the work of many agencies within the State entrusted with protecting New Mexico's water resources.

Information Used

This report generally deals with the period from January 1999 through December 1999.